

## State Capital Speech by Maureen Cruise 4/2022

A nurse mistakenly gives an incorrect drug that kills a patient, and is convicted of homicide with a sentence of 8 years in prison. An unintentional error committed by someone professionally dedicated to doing good and helping the vulnerable. An accident. Severely punished.

Health Industry Corporate executives knowingly and purposefully design a system that kills at least 100,000 people a year for profit. Every year 30 times the 9/11 death toll. An annual mass murder by design. Nobody is indicted.

By industry design, many more millions are delayed and denied care and left to become sicker and disabled.... For the crime of inflicting great bodily harm, **Nobody is indicted.**

US Corporate Health insurance system relies on 'disaster opportunism" to exploit our human need at our most vulnerable for financial gain. 23 million people are mired in significant medical debt. 75% of those with debt have health insurance. 70 million Americans go without the basics such as food, medicine, shelter in order to afford health care. 40 Million Americans self ration needed care to avoid medical debt. **Your money or your life by design is extortion. No one is indicted.**

Almost 90% of Americans have health insurance. We pay premiums, copays, deductibles yet struggle to get care because what we have is not enough to cover care. Insurance is not care and does not guarantee care. **Paying for something and not getting it is a scam.**

70% of health care costs are publicly funded and at least 30% of that money is **extracted** away from delivery of health care for profit. **That is an enormous theft from the public treasury ....by design. No one is indicted.**

**Adversely affecting 14 million Californians, these destructive policies ravage** entire communities across the state turning them into health care deserts with high rates of poverty, debt, preventable disabilities, stark health disparities, and unnecessary deaths.

Primarily people of color and the poor, are suffering lethal consequences under a racist, separate and unequal, publicly funded system. Penthouse care for some. Bargain basement care for others and no care for the very unlucky... **Unequal care is exclusionary and a violation of the 14th amendment.** Separate is never equal. Separate is apartheid. Our system is de facto racist and classist and unconstitutional.

No one is indicted for these predatory crimes against humanity. Rather generous multi million dollar salaries and ever growing shareholder profits are the reward for the cruelty of calculating how to systematically increase massive human misery and injustice.

Using human beings as profit centers, extracting as much as possible, giving a little as possible, hijacking professional judgment, squeezing employees, stripping facilities of resources and ultimately discarding those lives no longer profitable is nothing less than a criminal racket run by industry gangsters.

This system wide criminal conspiracy to do great harm for profit can only continue with government complicity. Legislators are the accomplices enabling these crimes. They are driving the proverbial get away car and some are receiving payola to do just that. **This is what we can and must change.**

In CA, *Cal Care AB 1400* was our 8th attempt at legislation in 24 years. We are closer everytime and we will be back in 2023 with *Cal Care*. But before then we need to make some some essential changes in November.

It will take dedication, it will take work, it will take outreach, it will take heart. **TOGETHER WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE** who controls this THIS system by changing those in the system.

We must elect new legislators and send our message to those remaining. We are not going away. The current system is brutal, it is barbaric, dysfunctional and immoral. We want and we deserve the same care we give to legislators. Anything less is intolerable. Our lives depend on creating a just single payer universal system. Everybody in. Nobody out. Equally. We need humanistic health care: it is just, it is a human right, a public good, fiscally responsible, democratic and morally correct. We need the justice of single payer and we are going to fight for it.